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SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1909 }

NAHAN ABDO HAJ MOUSSA

JUNE 27, 1952.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCARRAN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1843]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 1843) for the relief of Nahan Abdo Haj Moussa, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to grant to the minor adopted child of United States citizens the status of a nonquota immigrant which is the status normally enjoyed by the alien minor children of citizens of the United States.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The beneficiary of the bill is an 8-year-old child who was born in Lebanon and who has been adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Nageeb Abdo, who are citizens of the United States. The child is their niece and resides in Lebanon with her parents. The Abdos have only one child, an adopted son, who is 14 years of age.

A letter dated September 19, 1951, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives from the Acting Deputy Attorney General with reference to the case reads as follows:

SEPTEMBER 19, 1951.

Hon. EMANUEL CELLER,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Department of Justice relative to the bill (H. R. 1843) for the relief of Nahan Abdo Haj Moussa, an alien.

The bill would provide that for the purposes of sections 4 (a) and 9 of the Immigration Act of 1924, as amended, the minor child, Nahan Abdo Haj Moussa

shall be considered to be the natural-born child of Nageeb Abdo, a citizen of the United States.

The files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service of this Department disclose that, according to Mrs. Nageeb Abdo, the alien is about 8 years of age and was born in Eyat, or Iaate, Baalbeck, Lebanon, where she presently resides with her parents. The child is a niece of Mrs. Abdo's husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Abdo reside in Scranton, Pa., where they have operated a grocery store for the past 9 years. Mr. Abdo was born in Lebanon in December 1898, and entered the United States in 1911, becoming a citizen through naturalization in 1929. Mrs. Abdo was born in Scranton, on February 10, 1903. She lost her citizenship through her marriage to Mr. Abdo, who was an alien at the time of their marriage in 1921. She was subsequently repatriated under the act of June 25, 1936, as amended. The Abdos have only one child, an adopted son, who is 14 years of age. They apparently desire to legally adopt the alien child.

The quota for Lebanon, to which the alien is chargeable, is oversubscribed and an immigration visa is not readily obtainable. The record fails, however, to present considerations sufficiently impelling to justify the enactment of special legislation granting to the alien in this case a preference over other alien children, especially in view of the fact that she is residing with and being supported by her natural parents.

Accordingly, this Department is unable to recommend enactment of the measure.

Yours sincerely,

WM. AMORY UNDERHILL,
Acting Deputy Attorney General.

Congressman Harry P. O'Neill, the author of the bill, appeared before a subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and submitted the following documents in connection with the bill:

BRIEF OF FACTS IN RE APPLICATION OF MR. NAGEEB ABDO PETITIONING FOR ENTRY OF NAHAN ABDO HAJ MOUSSA THROUGH PRIVATE LAW

1. Nageeb Abdo, aged 52, a United States citizen by virtue of citizenship, procedure followed in the court of Schuylkill at Pottsville, Pa., December 9, 1929, has resided in the United States since 1911. He was born in the country of Lebanon and migrated here at the age of 13.

2. Mr. Nageeb Abdo, the applicant, has been married since 1922, presently residing at 1501 North Lincoln Avenue, Scranton, Pa., where he operates a grocery store, owning his own home wherein the said store is contained.

3. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Nageeb Abdo have been married some 28 years, their desire for children unfortunately has not been fulfilled. As a consequence on February 14, 1937, an infant boy was adopted and raised as one of their own. The boy, Joseph Abdo, is presently 13 years of age.

4. The applicant, Mr. Nageeb Abdo, and his wife are and have been desirous for a long time of adopting a girl into their household to also raise as their own. Mr. Nageeb Abdo has effectively followed the necessary procedure in adopting the afore-mentioned Nahan Abdo Haj Moussa, who is 7 years of age, daughter of a sister and brother-in-law in Lebanon. The parents of the said adopted girl are destitute and the parents find it difficult meeting the needs of their large family. The afore-mentioned adoption was legalized by the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and by the American Legation of Beirut, Lebanon.

5. Nageeb Abdo and his wife feel financially capable of coping with the needs of the said child who is presently educated in French and Arabic, insofar as furnishing whatever tutors and schooling are necessary in order to have her meet the needs of a new environment.

6. By virtue of the affidavits, documents, and proofs made part of this file, it is the belief of the applicant, Nageeb Abdo, that the financial needs of the said child can be met and that at no time would she become a public burden or a public charge.

7. It is the sincere hopes and wishes of Mr. Nageeb Abdo that a visa will be allowed to this child who will assist in filling a gap in the Abdo home and who, in turn, Mr. Nageeb Abdo feels will be raised and brought up to imbue all the traits

and attributes of a person brought up and raised in an environment and spirit of Americanism. Wherefore, he prays, if the lawmakers see fit, that a special bill be issued to allow this child to migrate to this country.

JAMES J. ZAYDON,
*Attorney by virtue of special power rendered by power of attorney executed
by Nageeb Abdo which is made part of the file hereof.*

MARONITE VICARIATE,
Baalbeck.

We, the undersigned Abdo Haj Moussa (the father) and Raja Abdo Haj Moussa (the mother), of Iaate village, county of Zahlé (Liban), parish of Baalbeck, do hereby declare and certify, as our free act and deed:

That by virtue of this present indenture we renounce to all our paternal and maternal rights on our daughter, Nahane, of 7 years age, and invest same unto our relative, Najeeb Abdo, who takes upon himself before God and the world to afford her all affectionate assistance and supply her with any need and help just as if he was her own father;

That since today our said daughter has turned into latter, by way of adoption; That she has on him the same rights she has on her own parents.

In testimony whereof we deliver this present statement and require from the competent authorities to book it in the proper registers.

October 2, 1950. Signed: Abdo Haj Moussa. Mark of the right thumb of Raja Haj Moussa. Has signed also for Raja and in her presence Assad Fares Haj.

At the request of our spiritual sons, signing at the foot of the foresaid indenture we allowed and authorized Mr. Najeeb Abdo to adopt the girl Nahane, daughter of Abdo Haj Moussa of Iaate village, parish of Baalbeck, and we invested him with all rights and obligations incombining to the proper father in order to educate her and deal with her just as if he was her own father.

Seen that opportunity of the case and on demand I registered this present deed by virtue of the power conferred unto me by the Holy Apostolic Legation and I legalized the signatures affixed by both declarants, October 2, 1950. Signed: Father Antonios Zagheb, the Maronite patriarchal vicar of Baalbeck. (Seal of same.)

I, mayor of Iaate village, legalize the sincerity of this present document. October 2, 1950. Signed: The mayor of Iaate, Ajaj Ibrahim.

Seen for the legalization of the signature of the mayor of Iaate. Signed: The Caimacam of Baalbeck. (Seal of same.)

Seen for legalization of the signature of the Maronite patriarchal vicar of Baalbeck, Father Antonios Zagheb. El Diman, October 16, 1950.

The present document bears the legalization of the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Je certifie sous la foi du serment, que la presente traduction est litteralement conforme a l'original arabe.

En foi de quoi, le traducteur-jure.

ALFRED GABBOUR.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H. R. 1843) should be enacted.



